(c) New connections are available across the counter for the genuine domestic customers in the States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and there is no waiting list for release of new connections. OMCs have reported that the total enrolment for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the period October, 2006 to March, 2007 under the State Government sponsored Schemes is expected to be 3,200 and 53,587 in the States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand respectively.

Increase in gas price by GAIL

661. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL has increased the price of gas supplied to various gas-based plants in the State of Andhra Pradesh from US$3.3 MMBTU to US $ 4.5 MMBTU;

(b) if so, the reasons for increasing the price of gas unilaterally;

(c) whether any consultations have been held with the stakeholders andAPTRANSOCO;

(d) if so, what is the outcome of the consultations; and

(e) the details of plants that are opposing the price increase by GAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): "(a) and (b) No, Sir. The negotiations for revised price of gas from Ravva Satellite fields are being held with the Ravva JV consortium; the price has yet to be finalized.

(c) All the 15 customers drawing Ravva Satellite Gas have been informed about the likely increase in the price and their acceptance of the likely revised price has been sought. APTRANSCO has also been informed about the likely revision in the price.

(d) Of the 15 customers, 10 customers have given their consent for the revised price of around $ 4.5/MMBTU.

(e) The following customers have not agreed to the gas price increase being demanded by the Ravva JV consortium: 1) Spectrum, 2) GVK lndustries,3) APGPCL, 4) Lanco Kondapally 5) Delta Paper.